HERPETOLOGIA

A NEW SNAKE FROM THE EASTERN ANDES OF COLOMBIA

By EMMETT REID DUNN

A small collection from northeastern Colombia recently sent for identification by my friend Hermano Nicéforo María of the Instituto de La Salle in Bogotá, contains a single specimen of a *Leptotyphlops* which I am unable to place in any of the described species.

Leptotyphlops nicefori, n. sp.

Type.—In collection of Instituto de La Salle, Bogotá. Probably juvenile.

Type locality.—Mogotes, Santander, 1746 m. elevation.

Diagnosis.—A very stout *Leptotyphlops;* one labial between nasal and ocular; median dorsal scale count of 170; no distinct margings. In this combination of characters it disagrees from the four known Colombian species of the genus (*cf.* CALDASIA, No. 11, pp. 51-53, 1944); it agrees with these species in all characters which they possess in common (cf. CALDASIA, *l. c.*) to which I add: rostral normal; nasal completely divided.

Description of Type.—Scales in 14 rows around body, in 10 around middle of tail; median dorsal scales about 170 from tip to tip (168 in one count and 172 in another); median subcaudals 14; labial between nasolabial and oculolabial does not reach level of eye, so there is full contact between the two latter; the first parietal makes broad contact with the labial behind oculolabial, but the second parietal is separated from it by a temporal scale. Total length 90 mm., tail 7, diameter 3.5. Length/diameter ratio 26 (exceedingly stout for this genus, but this is a small specimen and probably juvenile); total length/tail ratio 13.

Color dark gray, slightly lighter below; no definite markings.

Remarks.—In most of its characters, and in its geographical position, this snake seems to be allied to the group which includes the wide-ranging *L. macrolepis,* and the localized *L. dugandi* and *L. joshuai* of Colombia and the recently described *L. anthracinus* of eastern Ecuador. This group includes all hitherto known stout South American *Leptotyphlops,* and all those with a low count of median dorsal scales. This group, however, has two labials between nasal and ocular, and the new form has only one. If the labial count is considered the major indication of alliance, our present species is to be allied with much slimmer snakes, and with snakes which have a far higher median dorsal scale count (= more vertebrae).

A tabulation of the Colombian species may help to show the situation:

	Upper labials	Median dorsals	L/D ratio	L/T ratio	Coloration
goudoti	4	217-231	62	18	3 light dorsal stripes.
nicefori	4	170	26	13	Uniform gray.
dugandi	5	172-184	33-36	18-29	8 light dorsal stripes.
joshuai	5	185-191	34-38	11-19	Black above, white below.
macrolepis	5	230-242	40-59	13-16	Uniform gray above; below with 7 faint light stripes.